

The Vigilante: Hero Or Villain?

Americans love a hero, almost any kind of a hero, because they symbolize individual effort, individual achievement, courage or bravery, all characteristics of individualism and the competitive spirit. In the nation's larger cities, where crime is rampant and many people live in constant fear for their personal safety, hero wor-ship is one way to help people overcome or at least temporarily forget their fears.

The athlete, the fireman who rescues a child from a burning building, the entertainer who contributes money to a worthy cause, the priest who prevents an insane person from taking his life, the person who demonstrates honesty by returning a large sum of lost money, these are all hero types. However, the greatest American heroes, magnified by fictional television and movies are those who prevent a crime in some heroic fashion.

The hero worship mentality took a big leap forward recently when New York City residents applauded its latest hero - a subway passenger who shot four youths who were harassing him and attempting to rob him using screwdrivers with sharp points as weapons of intimidation. One of the youths was shot in the spine and will never be able to walk again.

In a most unusual occurrence, the hero gunman helped two women to find other seats on the train after falling to the floor to avoid the gun fire. He also calmly told the train conductor what had happened and quietly walked off the train and the scene of

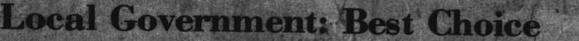
For the 3.4 million New Yorkers who must ride the subway daily, about half of the city's population, there is a full awareness that the subway's long walking tunnels are often used as hiding places for muggers, rapists and robbers. For example, from January through November in 1984 there were 5,458 robberies or attempted robberies and eight homicides in the New York subway system. Widespread know-ledge of these facts and big media coverage of many of these crimes cause many subway riders to live in daily fear for their lives upon entering the subway.

It was out of this background that New Yorkers applauded the shooting of the four 18 and 19 year old youths. Thomas Reppetto, president of the Citizens' Crime Commission of New York, probably best summarized the feelings of many New Yorkers when he said, "People are fed up with being victimized by criminals. I think the sentiment is that the fellow probably did wrong but should not be punished severely." At the other end of the debate, a Manhattan subway rider said, "I certainly don't think he (the gunman) should be convicted of any crime at all. If I had a gun, I'd have done the same thing."

New York Mayor Ed Koch, Police Commissioner Ben Ward and Gov. Mario Cuomo quickly denounced vigilante justice. Koch then mobilized an extra 1,300 policemen in a search for the gunman whom some had compared to a movie called "Death Wish" which portrays a similar modernday vigilante.

Undoubtedly the sympathy expressed for the gunman, the offers of money to defend him in court, and offers to post bail money led Bernhard Goetz, a 37 year old, self-employed engineer, to turn himself into the authorities as the professed gunman. Goetz had been mugged four years earlier on the subway.

Ironically, Goetz refused all offers of financial assistance. Ironically, too, many New Yorkers wonder why the mayor mobilized 1,300 policement to hunt down a man who sought to protect himself but the same force was not there to protect subway riders from the very thing that Mr. Goetz was defending himself against. Ironically also is the fact that Mr. Goetz's self-defense and its wide publicity may have a deterrent effect on criminal acts at least for a while, if so, it on criminal acts at least for a while, if so, it will have accomplished something that the police apparently have not been able to do.



Local government - city and county - is the people's best choice for the effective and best decision makers in the use of their tax dollars, according to a survey on govern-ments and taxes released by the Advisory Commission on Intergovernment Relations.

A Gallup poll conducted for ACIR in May 1984, revealed that local government gets a 35 percent preference rating, compared to 27 percent for state government and 24 percent for the federal government. Another 14 percent of those surveyed gave no

The approval rating for local government's use of taxpayers' dollars is the highest since ACIR began its annual survey in 1972.

Significantly, in past years, and to some

extent today, many people, especially minorities, would be concerned about this shift because it has been only by the force of federal law and the regulations attached to

many federally funded programs that minorities and poor communities have received a fair share of the benefits of such programs.

those people in the population, usually the poor, who too often don't vote don't have an impact and influence upon the tax-use decision makers. Voting will best assure how our taxes are used.

Church Members...And Apartheid

...Sabrin's column, "Scope," will return to this space next

Black dues-paying mem-bers of predominantly white religious denominations should pay careful attention to what their money supports at the international level. The present anti-apartheid protest in South Africa, inspired by Nobel Peace Prize winner Bishop Desmond winner Bishop Desmond
Tutu is yet another sign to
blacks that corporate America is linked tightly to the
continuing oppression of
their people in that country.

Many large white religious
bodies are still investing in
corporations with ties, directly or indirectly, to a system
which denies blacks both
civil and human rights

civil and human rights.

Recognizing the right of members to know where their money goes, the Office of Communication of the United Church of Christ (UCC) recently released a report from its Social Responsibility in Investments
Office, outlining the actions
taken by its national boards
to attack apartheid at the
corporate level.

As a reinforcement for the

report and as a guide to individuals, local churches

BEAPART OF THE NEW AWARENES

IF BLACK POWER IS TO HAVE ANY RELEVANCE FOR BLACK MEN AND WOMEN IN THE STRE IT MUST, BE TRANSLATED INTO DOLLARS AND CENTS."

BLACK DOLLAR MAGAZINE

COMMUNITY

Sabrina

and regional conferences of the denomination, the re-search included the findings of the board's survey of the 24 largest international U.S. banks' lending policies to South Africa. Purpose of the

survey was to identify fi-nancial institutions that deposit funds and maintain accounts with that racist government and thereby discourage investments in the

Results of the survey w helpful to people and insti-tutions strongly opposing apartheid. The majority of the banks stated that their policies prohibit lending money to the public sector in South Africa and these restrictions will continue until the country changes its ra-

cist treatment of non-white Among the dissenters, Cit bank continues full banking operations with branches in South Africa and Nor Carolina National Bank has small office there.

A critical issue addresse by the Social Responsibility in Investments Office is U.S. corporate involvement in security-related activities by South Africa's government This requirement, established by law in 1980, is on of the country's tough in of the country's tough it sponses to the possibility of worker uprisings or sab tage. It allows the government to designate corporal property "strategic key points," which must plan an adopt security measures.

All-white militias to protect the plants are important parts of the basic security plans. Further, major concerns arise from the in position of security-related.

activities. Will they involv U.S. citizens in South Afr ca's civil disturbances? Should employees of U.S. companies be forced to can

weapons in the interest of the government?

A survey conducted by UCC boards of 22 leading U.S. corporations operating in South Africa revealed the four oil companies include in the boards' portfolio declined to answer the question regarding designations "National Key Point," Texaco, Standard Oil of California, Mobil and Exxoremained silent.

On the positive side, two companies, General Motors, and Xerox, have agreed to abide by the conditions set by Bishop Tutu in his role of general secretary of the South African Council of Churches. Neither, however, has been willing to make public statements.

The UCC's progress in getting information from 34 major corporations in their portfolios regarding commitments to human rights in overseas operations related to exports has been painfully slow. Honeywell, Burroughs, American Can Co., AMP, Inc., Amdahl Corp. and Singer had not replied by October, 1984.

Whites in the country will continue to earn four times as much as blacks. The government will get away with spending \$87 per black student, compared to \$658 for each white. Blacks will still need permission to live, work and walk where they choose. Equal rights in pu blic accommodations will be denied in the simplest forms -- buses, trains, hotels and restaurants.

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Furthermore, at all levels of government, there remains a need to reassess the na-tion's tax policies to better assure a more equitable taxing policy. Interestingly, too,

From Capitol Hill

Administrative Blacks Left Holding "The Bag"

By Alfreda L. Madison
Special To The Post
The press has recently reported statements made by Clarence Pendleton, Chairman of the Civil Rights Commission, Steven Rhodes, Assistant to Vice President Bush, and Clarence Thomas, Chairman of Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). These men criticized blacks for voicing their opposition to Mr. Reagan's assault on civil rights, and now they are spewing out their venom on blacks because of the "Free Africa Movement" protest.

Both chairmen strongly denounced black leaders for not trying to work with the President. Black leaders and all civil rights groups have tried, unsuccessfully, to work with the Administration on enforcing civil rights mandates of both the Congress and the courts, while Mr. Reagan has been working diligently to overturn these civil rights gains.

Both Pendleton and Thomas are supporting the Administration's position against busing. In most cases busing has worked well. Examples are Norfolk, Va., where busing has worked marvelously for more than a decade, but the Administration is attempting to upset the system and return it to resegregation of schools. The people in Charlotte, N.C., told the President that he was wrong in denouncing busing for integration in their city, because since busing their schools have improved.

Thomas said, "What black leaders have successfully done is they have 'essentially disenfranchised blacks." Thomas is painting blacks as an unintelligent group of people who don't realize their deplorable plight unless someone else tells them. Eddle Williams, President of

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Alfreda L. Madison

the Joint Center for Political Studies, stated in the Washington Post that statistics gathered by the Gallop Poll showed that "like many white leaders, black leaders in fact seem to be following more than leading."

The Washington Post article said hese three Reagan appointments ense a lack of attention to onsense a lack of attention to ongoing budget and tax deliberations
from black leaders distracted by
mushrooming South Africa demonstrations. Do they feel that blacks
can work on domestic policies at one
time and foreign policies at another? Why can't they simultaneously work on both at the same
period? What about whiten who
voice opinions and take a stand on
both policies at the same time? They
haven't spoken out against the
whites who are taking part in the
demonstrations, even including conservative congressmen who have a
very strongly worded letter against
South Africa's apartheid, even
including consideration of sanctions against South Africa and also
stating that Mr. Reagan's constructive engagement policy is not
working. These three blacks have
been advocating the President's

color blind policy, but their statements to the press show that they don't believe that blacks have the same right to work on domestic and foreign policies simultaneously as the whites have.

Representative Augustus Hawkins, Chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee, held a hearing on statements Clarence Thomas made in the newspaper, which indicates that EEOC is planning to modify commission policies, regulations and guidelines. The committee is particularly concerned that implications of these proposed changes may have on meaningful enforcement of Equal Employment Opportunity Laws. Chairman Thomas questioned the use of statistics in discrimination cases, as placing too much reliance on them. He gave an example of the Georgetown, University's (a white majority) basketball team as questioning the composition of the team for having basketball players or not having players comparable to the proportionate of black students in the university. Witnesses and members of the committee proved the ridiculousness of that comparison. Players are selected on their ability to play basketball. Thomas also stated that an employer may be found in non-compliance if he does not have engineers proportionate to the black community, even though black in the infineers carnot be found.

found in non-compliance if he does not have engineers proportionate to the black community, even though black engineers cannot be found. The committee showed that has never been used against an employer, if non-qualified minorities are the only blacks available. He stated that affirmative action should consist of outreach efforts rather than numerical goals and timetables. Mr. Hawkins took strong issue with that view. He questioned just how he could determine whether or not an

employer is in compliance if there are no goals and timetables. Hawkins said that every corporation in the country has goals. The Commission Chairman is against the use of race consciousness. Yet in the EEOC conciliation agreement between General and Agricultural implement Workers of America and Aerospace provided for explicit race-conscious and sex-conscious remedies. The agreement requires that those chosen for apprenticeship openings make up 15.5 percent minorities and 12.0 percent women.

The hearing showed that the EEOC Chairman has changed his policies or is considering changing them.

Barry Goldstein of Education and Legal Defense Fund showed that Thomas misinterpreted the Griggs case. He used Griggs as being too reliant on statistics. Goldstein stated that under Griggs' use of a statistical disparity establishes a prima facie case, the burden shifts to the employer to show the success in the selection procedure. A test or an educational requirement, actually predicts success on the job.

Thomas told a reporter that the Stotts' case modified the Griggs' decision. Goldstein said that Stotts' opinion had nothing to do with Griggs. "The issue in Griggs was whether a certain pattern of conduct constituted a violation of Title VII where there was no showing of intent. Stotts concerned a Court's power to modify a consent decree in order to require a city to retain in a lay-off situation junior black employees while displacing senior white employees where there had been no proof of a violation of the law."